Cancer in North Eastern States

4063. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed a report that North-Eastern States have more number of cancer patients;

(b) if so, whether Government would study the reasons for this, if any; and

(c) whether Government would provide more financial aid to these States to fight cancer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Population Based Cancer Registry Programme (PBCR) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) shows occurrence of certain types of cancer e.g. Oesophagus, Lung, Mouth, Nasopharynx, Stomach, etc. relatively higher in North Eastern Region as compared to other parts of the country.

(b) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has already initiated a multi centric study entitled "Role of Tobacco use and pesticides exposure in causation of cancer" since tobacco is one of the main causes of cancer including oral cancer.

(c) To provide efficient and cost effective treatment to cancer patients in North Eastern Region, this Ministry has recognized three Regional Cancer Centres namely Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal and Civil Hospital, Mizoram which are catering to the needs of the cancer patients. In addition to above, grant-in-aid has also been provided to Medical Colleges/Hospitals for purchase of equipment under other scheme of the National Cancer Control Programme. As a policy decision, 10% of the total budget of NCCP for the year 2007-08 has been earmarked for NE Region.

Banning of medicines having toxic contents

4064. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: